cessful outcome of the government's policy on centralised purchase of technology. In view of the above government have given freedom to entrepreneurs to select their own technology. However, government has decided to promote only such units which are prepared to commit sizable investments for suitable vertical integration with an accelerated phased manufacturing programme and which have the requisite inbuilt capacity to keep pace with the changing technology.

(d) and (e) After the issue of Press Note No. 30 (1985 series) deted 25-10-1985 inviting applications for the manufacture of VCRs|VCPs including deck mechanism and for the manufacture of microwave ovens, only two composite applications have been received and the same are under process.

Purchase of Air-craft carrier from the Soviet Union

1238. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian navy proposes to purchase a new aircraft carrier from the Soviet Union; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) INS VIKRANT shall be due for replacement in the 1990s. Various alternatives for her replacement are, therefore, being examined|evaluated by the Indian Navy.

Firing by Pakistani troops on Indians and Indian Army

1239. SHRI G. VARADARAJ:
SHRI M. KADHARSHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of times when the Pakistani troops opened fire on Indian army and Indians living on borders in different sectors during the last three years; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to prevent these?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) There have been a number of cases of unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops across the Line of Control in J&K in the last three years. It would not be desirable to disclose details. During these three years, there was one incident of firing across the international border in the Pathankot sector in 1984.

(b) Flag meetings at the local commanders' level are held, as also contacts at higher levels are made, to defuse a situation as and when the need arises.

Backing of Pak and US Governments to Afghan Guerillas and Indian Extremists

1240. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan and US Governments are continuously giving military backing to the guerillas in Afghanistan, as reported by Mr. Walikhan Kukhekmel, the tribal chief of Afridis;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India thereto keeping in view that Pakistan is backing extremists in India and they are being trained in US; and

(c) what steps the Government of India propose to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c) Government is aware of outside interference in Afghanistan. India is against both interference and intervention in the affairs of Afghanistan and favours a political settlement which takes into account